United Nations S/2016/413

Security Council

Distr.: General
3 May 2016
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 28 April 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you information regarding terrorist attacks against peaceful residential neighbourhoods that occurred in Aleppo governorate.

Over the past three days, as well as today, Thursday, 28 April 2016, armed terrorist groups attacked peaceful residential neighbourhoods in Aleppo city and other cities in Aleppo governorate, indiscriminately firing a hail of rockets, artillery rounds, gas cylinders (a.k.a. hell cannons) and mortar shells. At least 16 persons were killed and more than 100 others, including women and children, sustained injuries of varying severity.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms that such armed terrorist groups as the Nusrah Front, Army of Islam, the Free Army, Ahrar al-Sham and other affiliated groups would cease to exist were it not for the vast support that they continue to receive from Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and other States, whether in the form funds, weapons, ammunition or intelligence and logistical information. The attacks and indiscriminate shelling, the pace of which has been stepped up over the past few days at the direct order of regimes and States that sponsor and support terrorism, are meant to undermine the cessation of hostilities agreement. They also serve to confirm the association between what some like to designate "moderate opposition groups" and armed terrorist groups. One of those so-called moderate opposition groups is the "Riyadh opposition delegation", which withdrew from the Geneva talks in order to undermine efforts to arrive at a peaceful solution to the Syrian crisis.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has time and again written to the Secretary-General and the Security Council regarding the indiscriminate attacks perpetrated by armed terrorist groups against civilians and peaceful neighbourhoods, villages and cities. It is puzzling that the Secretary-General and the Security Council have not responded to those letters, even if only to condemn or deplore such acts. The Government reaffirms that the Secretary-General and the Security Council, by continuing to ignore the crimes and acts of terrorism committed by such groups as the Army of Conquest, the Army of Islam and other armed terrorist groups, which some States continue to designate "the moderate armed opposition", are sending a misleading message to those groups that they can

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continue to perpetrate acts of terrorism, which now threaten security and peace not only in Syria, but throughout the world.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the Security Council and the Secretary-General to condemn these terrorist crimes, which are openly directed against civilians. The Security Council must take preventive and punitive measures against those regimes and States that support and fund terrorism, in implementation of the Council's resolutions on countering terrorism and the funding thereof, including resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015).

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.